(a) the steps taken by the Central Government towards solution of financial problem faced by the States on account of recent revision of pay structure of State employees;

(b) whether Government of Assam has approached the centre for financial support to pay much arrear of DA and revised scale of the State Government employees on the basis of the Fifth Pay Commission recommendation; and

(c) if so, the total amount of arrear of pay and DA involvement on the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Government of India have been assisting States facing financial stress, on account of revision of pay structure, by advancing plan and non-plan assistance linked to a package of fiscal reforms to be initiated by the States. During the last year, Government of India also gave Extended Ways & Means support to those States who had finalised acceptable and monitorable fiscal reforms programmes.

(b) The State Government of Assam had sought financial support for this purpose in the year 1997-98.

(c) The arrears on account of revision of pay structure with effect from 1.1.1996 had been estimated to be around Rs. 1400 crores.

SC/ST vacancies in Ministry of Finance

5417. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee recommended to fill the backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and results achieved, if any;

(c) if not, the reasons for the same;

(d) the number of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs which remained unfilled as on 01.01.1993 in Class I, II, III and IV category under the Ministry of Finance and its autonomous/statutory/attached offices and action taken to fill these vacancies; and

(e) the backlog of vacancies for the SCs/STs in all grades as on 20.08.1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Defrauding of investors by Anubhav Group

5418. DR. M. N. DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a private company named Anubhav Group which established its Registered Head Office in Chennai and sub-offices in almost all the cities and towns of the country and defrauded hundreds of thousands of unsuspecting citizens and disappeared from everywhere after misappropriating crores of rupees;

(b) if so, whether Government would bring the culprits to book; and

(c) whether Government have thought of ways and means to recover the public money from the economic offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which regulates collective investment schemes (CIS), *vide* its press release dated November 26, 1997 and its public notice dated December 18, 1997, directed existing schemes to file the details of their schemes with SEBI. According to information filed by M/s Anubhav Plantations Ltd. on January 28, 1998, it had mobilised a total sum of Rs. 127.13 crores under 4 schemes.

According to information collected by SEBI, the office of the company has been sealed by police authorities. Registered letters written by SEBI to the company were returned undelivered.

M/s. Anubhav Plantations Ltd. is a respondent in a writ petition filed in the Delhi High Court. The Court has *inter -alia,* restrained them from selling, disposing of and/or alienating their immovable properties or parting with the possession of the same. Their directors have also been interdicted from transferring their immovable properties in any manner whatsoever. The Court also made it clear that its order will not come in the way of companies intending to refund the money to their investors. In a writ petition field In the High Court at Madras, the Court has passed similar orders.